

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /106 W
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R 211709Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4804
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS LISBON 1301

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PO, LY
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE/LIBYAN RELATIONS: TWO ROADS DIVERGED

1. LIBYAN PRESIDENT QADHAFI HAS REPORTEDLY URGED PORTUGAL TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO MADEIRA. SPEAKING AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI, QADHAFI APPARENTLY CALLED ON THE PORTUGUESE, FRENCH, AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE "ISLAND-COLONIES": MADEIRA, REUNION, AND SAINT HELENA.

2. GOP FOREIGN MINISTER SA MACHADO RESPONDED THAT QADHAFI'S STATEMENTS REFLECT A PROFOUND MISUNDERSTANDING OF PORTUGAL AND THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION.

3. QADHAFI'S CLARION CALL COINCIDED--ODDLY ENOUGH--WITH THE LISBON VISIT OF LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN GARIANI
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FAWZI. FAWZI MET WITH PRIME MINISTER SOARES FEBRUARY 17 TO DISCUSS THE NORMALIZATION OF PORTUGUESE-LIBYAN RELATIONS. THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL AND HIS STAFF WERE RECALLED LAST JUNE IN RESPONSE TO THE GOP DECISION TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

4. COMMENT: PERHAPS FAWZI CAN NOW ENLIGHTEN HIS

TRIPOLITANIAN COLLEAGUES ON THE NATURE OF THE LISBON/
MADEIRA RELATIONSHIP.
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